



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW

REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1953
together with the
REPORT
of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DUNMOW

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Acting Medical Officer of Health:

J.S.RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

H.B.GARDNER, M.R.San.I., Cert.R.San.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

R.P.MAY, Cert.R.San.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

J.WARD, Cert.R.San.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Chief Clerk:

G.H.MASON

Junior Clerk:

Miss D.E.COOK

N.B. The Chief Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor to the Council.

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.
July, 1954.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pending the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health for your District, I am continuing to act in that capacity. The question as to the advisability of uniting to make the areas served by such officers larger is still under discussion.

The year has been one of good health and there has been no noteworthy outbreak of infectious disease.

The programme for the building of Council Houses has been carried out.

Recently, two Circulars from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have been received which should, to some extent, alter the housing policy of the future.

The first, regarding Slum Clearance, withdraws advice previously given to Councils regarding concentrating on building new houses in preference to reconstruction of old houses. It states that the Government's policy is that Local Authorities should now take up again, as a matter of urgency, the campaign of Slum Clearance and should, for this purpose, review the housing conditions of their areas and submit proposals of measures to be taken as quickly as possible. The new Housing Bill will give guidance on matters to be taken into consideration in determining whether a house is, or is not, unfit for human habitation and the procedure for making clearance orders and the compulsory purchase order of land in or surrounded by, or adjoining a Clearance Area. Local Authorities will be empowered to defer the demolition of unfit houses in certain circumstances, if satisfied that the houses are, or can be made, capable of providing accommodation of a standard adequate for the time being.

The second Circular concerns grants for the improvement or conversion of housing accommodation. In it the Minister reminds Councils that the Government desires to give every possible encouragement to Local Authorities and private owners who wish to modernise and make better use of existing houses by improvement or conversions. Works of improvement or conversion need no longer be reckoned a part of the Local Authority's approved programme of new house building. In future, Local Authorities may themselves give approval to applications for grants submitted to them by private owners, and it is now no longer necessary to refer such applicants to the Ministry's Regional Officer.

The Minister has decided that it would be helpful to Local Authorities, owners and all concerned, if the requirements for such work were revised to exclude or modify those which it would be unreasonable to make an absolute condition of grant.

The revised requirements are:-

The dwelling must, after improvement or conversion:-

- (i) be in a good state of repair and substantially free from damp;
- (ii) have each room properly lighted and ventilated;
- (iii) have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on inside the dwelling;
- (iv) be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes;
- (v) have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet;
- (vi) have a fixed bath (or shower) preferably in a separate room;
- (vii) be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water;
- (viii) have a proper drainage system;
- (ix) be provided in each room with adequate points for gas or electric lighting (where reasonably available);
- (x) be provided with adequate facilities for heating;
- (xi) have satisfactory facilities for storing, preparing and cooking food;
- (xii) have proper provision for the storage of fuel (where required).

The Circular points out that, in relation to an application for grant from a private owner, his financial resources are wholly irrelevant to the question whether or not an improvement grant should be made.

In considering a scheme for improvement or conversion submitted for grant, the Minister thinks there is only one question which may be properly asked, namely whether it will produce a satisfactory modernised dwelling or dwellings complying with the statutory conditions and the specified requirements.

The Minister has decided to reduce the minimum figure of cost from £150 to £100, but the maximum grant will remain at the figure of £400. The Minister may however, on application, waive the limit for any individual scheme.

Reasonable expenditure on professional fees of architects, surveyors and engineers may, from now on, be taken into account for all purposes.

These two Circulars clearly point out the path to the solving of the housing problem. With reference to Slum Clearance those Authorities that have completed a housing survey must be aware of its extent. Those that have had no proper survey cannot be so without making one. Decisions must be come to as to which areas must be dealt with as Clearance Areas and which houses must be dealt with individually. The Local Authority must also decide which sites will be acquired by them and used for re-development or retention as open spaces. As directed in the Circular some houses marked for ultimate demolition must be made reasonably good for habitation for a specified number of years.

With regard to the Circular on grants for improvements and conversions, encouragement or even some form of persuasion may to some extent alleviate the question of Slum Clearance and help to satisfy the demand for houses having up to date amenities.

It seems probable that owner-occupiers may be readily willing to apply for the grants. Employers of agricultural workers find that the offer of a tenancy of a modernised house greatly facilitates their chance of obtaining suitable employees. Therefore, they too, may welcome the assistance now offered. Owners of property to let may, on the other hand, find the offer less attractive, except perhaps in districts where new public services are being provided with forthcoming inducements to connect.

Improvements and conversions will vary from perhaps the converting of an extra bedroom into a bathroom to most extensive re-building and extensions. Beyond all this work, there must still remain many existing small houses that will not come into Slum Clearance areas and will not be the subjects of applications for improvement grant. These, in the future, will be the only houses that can be let at low rents. They may not have such amenities as bathrooms and water laid on inside the house, but, provided that their structure is sound and is maintained in a sound condition, such houses, chiefly owing to their low rents, have still a useful part to play as dwellings.

In conclusion, it must be realised that it is now the Government's intention that Local Authorities shall forthwith submit proposals for dealing with all of the bad house property in their districts.

I would like to record my appreciation to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation, and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during 1953.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.S.RANSON

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	72,511
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	19,040
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books		5,979
Rateable value	...	£93,881
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£400

			<u>Dunmow</u>	<u>England</u>
			<u>R.D.C.</u>	<u>& Wales</u>
Live Births	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>		
Legitimate	287	152		
Illegitimate	22	10		
Still Births	6	4		
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			16.2	15.5
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.05			17.01	
Still birth rate per 1000 live and still births			19.04	22.4
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate)			229	
Death rate per 1000 resident population			12.02	11.4
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of .82			9.8	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age			4	
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births			12.9	26.8
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births			13.9	
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births			0	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			44	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			1	
Deaths from Whooping Cough			0	

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE GROUPS DURING
1953
 (Registered and Transferred)

Age Group	Registered	No. of Deaths Transferred
Under 1 year	-	4
1 and under 2 years	-	-
2 and under 5 years	1	1
5 and under 15 years	-	1
15 and under 25 years	-	-
25 and under 35 years	-	3
35 and under 45 years	1	6
45 and under 55 years	7	6
55 and under 65 years	14	8
65 and under 75 years	32	24
75 and upwards	68	53
Total	123	106

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1953

The Table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the Classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

Cause of Death			Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	-	-
5.	Whooping cough	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	-	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	6	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	3	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	-	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	13	12
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	-	1
16.	Diabetes	...	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	16	20
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	16	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	1	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	10	16
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	5	13
22.	Influeza	...	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	5	4
24.	Bronchitis	...	3	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	3	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	13	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	2	-
34.	All other accidents	...	1	2
35.	Suicide	...	3	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	-	-
All causes			108	121

2.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1953:-

	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	14	-	-
Whooping Cough	114	-	-
Measles	294	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	3	-
Acute Pneumonia	28	-	-
Dysentery	3	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-
Totals	459	4	1

Food Poisoning

There were no notifications of Food Poisoning during 1953.

TUBERCULOSIS - CASES NOTIFIED DURING
1953

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-
1 and under 5 years	-	-	-	-
5 and under 10 years	-	-	1	-
10 and under 15 years	-	-	1	-
15 and under 20 years	2	1	-	-
20 and under 25 years	1	-	-	-
25 and under 35 years	2	-	-	-
35 and under 45 years	2	-	-	-
45 and under 55 years	-	-	-	-
55 and under 65 years	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	2	1	-	-
Totals	9	2	2	-

Of these cases one was a case re-notified on taking up residence in this District.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Pulmonary	...	Male	0
		Female	0
Non-pulmonary	...	Male	0
		Female	0
		Total:	0

3.

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND
ATTENTION

National Assistance Act 1948, section 47

During the year the Council applied to the Courts for an order under Section 47 for the removal of a female aged 43 years, who was almost completely blind and was living in a hut, to a suitable hospital or other place. The order was granted for her removal and detention and maintenance and she was duly removed to a County Council hostel. She did not wish to be moved in the first instance but once in the hostel the Area Clerk of the County Council Welfare Department stated that she was very happy and had no desire to leave the establishment.

This was the only case dealt with during the year.

July, 1954

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the annual report of the work of the Department during the year of 1953.

The year was a record one for the completion of houses, 111 Council houses were completed compared with 75 in 1952. 41 private houses were completed showing an increase of 18 over 1952. The total of 152 houses was the highest for any year since the War. The number of houses under construction at the end of the year was 99 compared with 87 at the end of 1952. A further 2 Council houses had been authorised but had not been commenced.

The Pumphouse for the new borehole at Armitage Bridge, Thaxted, was completed and the delivery of pumping machinery was awaited. The extension of mains in Great Dunmow, Great Canfield, Hatfield Broad Oak and Stebbing was completed, totalling some 4 miles. At the end of the year work was proceeding on the extension of the main from the new borehole to the pumping station at Borough Bridge. No further work for the Waterworks Undertaking had been authorised by the end of the year.

In the field of sewerage and sewage disposal the sewerage of Stebbing was completed and the work of enlarging Felsted Sewage Disposal Works was nearing completion. The modernisation of Great Dunmow Sewage Disposal Works was completed except for the re-building of the existing filters. Approval in principle had been given to schemes for Little Hallingbury and Takeley and the necessary documents were being prepared.

Although few proposals for capital expenditure were approved in the year, towards the end of 1953 there was a feeling that some relaxation of the restriction on capital investment would take place during 1954 and all preparatory work on water and sewerage schemes was pushed ahead so that there should be no delay when approvals were finally given.

There was no change in the staff of the Public Health Department during the year. The inspection of houses under the Housing Acts for the preparation of a slum clearance programme continued and visits to the Dunmow Bacon Factory for the inspection of carcasses were carried out from Monday to Friday in each week throughout the year.

Details of the work carried out by the Department during the year are given in the following pages.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Council for their confidence and the staff for their loyalty and assistance during the year.

I remain, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
H.B.GARDNER

Chief Sanitary Inspector
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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The water supplies in the area were adequate and were obtained from the Council's Pumping Stations at Great Dunmow and at Thaxted and from the Herts and Essex Water Company Limited.

Regular samples were taken throughout the year and these were found to be satisfactory. Reports on three of these samples by the Counties Public Health Laboratories appear below:-

Dunmow Waterworks

"This sample shows faint opalescence and deposit associated with the presence of a trace of iron. The water is neutral in reaction and free from other metals. It is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard. These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character, and suitable for public supply purposes apart from the disadvantage of the faint opalescence associated with the trace of iron present. 22nd April, 1953."

Thaxted Waterworks

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic quality. From the aspect of the chemical analysis and apart from the objection to the degree of hardness, the water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes. 28th January, 1953"

Herts and Essex Water Co Ltd.
(Roydon Pumping Station)

"This sample has opalescence and appreciable turbidity which is due to the presence of iron. The water is neutral in reaction but the content of free carbon dioxide is appreciable. It is very hard in character though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. Apart from the objection to the iron, these results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes. Softening would be advantageous. 22nd April, 1953".

Waterworks Undertaking

Quantities of Water pumped:

Dunmow Waterworks	...	37,495,000 gallons
Thaxted Waterworks	...	118,781,144 gallons
		<u>156,276,144 gallons</u>

Repairs and connections:

No. of new connections to mains	...	172
No. of new metered supplies	...	26
No. of repaired services	...	90
No. of repaired mains	...	8

Main extensions:

The following extension was made:-

St Martin's Close, White Roding	...	128 yards
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Comprehensive Water Scheme

Thaxted Borehole

The Pumphouse for the new borehole at Armitage Bridge, Thaxted, was completed during the year, and the main to connect the borehole to the Pumping Station at Borough Bridge was being laid. The pumping machinery for the borehole was awaited.

High Easter Water Tower

The Minister of Housing and Local Government stated that this work should be deferred until January, 1954, when a fresh application should be submitted to him. The Council agreed that this be done.

Contract P.L.16

This small contract of main laying was approved in 1952 and by the end of that year the link between Lindsell and Duck End, Stebbing, of some 1394 yards had been substantially completed. During 1953 the following mains were laid:-

Saracen's Head to Clock House, Great Dunmow	1015 yards
Peckers, Great Canfield to Wises, Hatfield Broad Oak with extension to Hart Wood	2418 yards
Bush End, Hatfield Broad Oak	633 yards
Thaxted Pumping Station to new Borehole at Armitage Bridge, Thaxted	450 yards

Work was continuing on the main from the Pumping Station to the Borehole at Thaxted at the end of the year.

Contract P.L.17

This contract comprising some 18 miles of mains in various parishes is to complete the Council's proposals for main laying contained in the comprehensive scheme. An application to proceed with this work had been made to

the Minister of Housing and Local Government and this was under consideration by him at the end of the year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Pollution of Streams

Streams which have been polluted for years continued to be polluted and this was largely due to the Council being unable to proceed with any of their sewerage schemes. The main areas of pollution were:-

Chelmer Watershed

River Chelmer at Thaxted, Duton Hill, Great Easton, Little Easton and Great Dunmow.

Barnston Brook at Barnston.

Stebbing Brook at Bran End, Church End and Town Mill, Stebbing.

Lee Watershed

Pincey Brook at Takeley Street.

Pollution of the River Chelmer at Great Dunmow and of the Stebbing Brook at Stebbing was largely abated during the year by completion of the sewerage schemes in those parishes.

Extensions of Sewers

No extensions of the Council's sewers were made during the year apart from Stebbing, details of which are given separately.

Connections to Sewers

During the year 91 premises were connected to the Council's sewers as shown below:-

Great Dunmow	60	Hatfield Broad Oak	18
Duton Hill	10	Hatfield Heath	2
Thaxted	1		

Sewage Effluents

Satisfactory effluents were obtained from the sewage works at Hatfield Broad Oak and Hatfield Heath. Samples of the effluents from the sewage works at Felsted, Great Dunmow and Thaxted continued to be unsatisfactory, although those at Felsted and Great Dunmow were expected to improve with the completion of work there.

Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme

Stebbing Sewerage Scheme - Contract 7

The work of sewerage Stebbing was completed by the end of the year and final restoration of services to those houses which drained to sewers now replaced by new sewers was being carried out. The work of enlarging Felsted Sewage Disposal Works to take the flow from Stebbing was largely completed except for the installation of an additional pump.

Great Dunmow Sewage Disposal Works - Contract 8

The work of re-building and modernising these Works was largely completed during the year. Apart from the completion of the re-building of the existing filters and the sowing of grass and general tidying of the site, little work remained to be done.

Upper Chelmer Valley Scheme - Contract 9

In view of complaints from the Essex River Board regarding the poor effluent from Thaxted Sewage Works further applications were made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for permission to carry out this scheme but at the end of the year permission had not been forthcoming. The tender for the work which had been accepted in 1951 still remained in suspended animation.

Takeley, Little Hallingbury and Barnston

Further applications were made to the Minister of Housing and Local

Government during the year for permission to proceed with these schemes. As a result of this pressure the Minister met a deputation from the Council in October 1953 and he wrote subsequently stating that the Council could proceed with the schemes for Takeley and Little Hallingbury. The scheme for Barnston, he said, should continue to be deferred for the time being. At the end of the year the Council's Consulting Engineers were preparing the documents for the two approved schemes.

White Roding

Negotiations continued with the Planning Department and the land owner in respect of a site for the proposed sewage disposal works for this parish but agreement had not been reached by the end of the year.

Causeway End, Felsted

The scheme for this hamlet continued to be deferred during the year.

High Easter

Agreement was reached during the year for the acquisition of a sewage pumping station site and negotiations were in progress for the selection and acquisition of a site for the sewage disposal works for the High Easter scheme.

Willows Green, Felsted

The scheme for this area was prepared during the year but the owners of the three alternative sites for the disposal works refused to sell and negotiations were continuing at the end of the year.

High Roding

The scheme for this parish was under preparation during the year and negotiations were being carried out with the owner of the land which was required for a site for the disposal works.

Progress in getting any actual work carried out was disappointing but the preparation of documents and negotiations with land owners and government departments were continued so that there should be few delays when authorities were finally given for schemes to be commenced.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of house refuse was maintained during the year although there were some small interruptions due to breakdown of vehicles and sickness amongst the staff. The collection is once weekly in the Lighting Areas of Great Dunmow, Felsted and Thaxted, and once fortnightly in the remainder of the District. 7,986 yards of refuse were collected compared with 6,226 yards in 1952. The increase was due in part to the fact that there were 152 extra houses to collect from in the year. The refuse continued to be tipped in the disused gravel pits at Merks Hill, Great Dunmow, by arrangement with the owner.

SALVAGE

The collection of waste paper was continued during the year and baling was carried out in the garage in the Council Yard. 53 tons 11 cwts of waste paper were collected and despatched to the Mills at Purfleet and credits for £359.1.5. were received. This is somewhat less than the previous year. The price for the paper for the greater part of the year was £6.10.0 per ton. The Mills at Purfleet were flooded early in the year and deliveries had to be suspended for two months.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The Council's Sanitary Inspectors made 3,586 visits and inspections in the course of the year. Details of these are given below:-

Complaints received and investigated	...	204
Inspections under Housing Acts	...	198
Housing applications verified	...	188
Inspections under Public Health Acts	...	1,231
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	203
Places of Amusement	...	2
Schools	...	22
Offensive accumulations	...	32
Water supplies	...	48
Drainage	...	157
Sewage Disposal	...	107
Cesspools, Septic Tanks and Pail closets	...	60
Ditches	...	82
Refuse disposal	...	32
Smoke observations	...	1
Infectious Disease prevention	...	44
Factories	...	89
Shops	...	92
Slaughter-houses	...	376
Other Meat and Food visits	...	81
Cafes	...	51
Dairies	...	18
Public houses	...	11

Nuisances detected and Notices served

Nuisances detected	...	130
Informal notices served	...	26
Notices outstanding 1st January, 1953	...	71
Notices outstanding 31st December, 1953	...	64
Statutory Notices served	...	3
Legal proceedings	...	1

SHOPS

The inspection of Shops under the Shops Act 1950 was carried out during the year but no formal action was necessary. There were 172 shops entered in the Council's register. No Certificates of Exemption were applied for during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was necessary under this heading during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's Sanitary Inspectors made 87 primary visits and 170 re-visits in respect of infestations by rats and mice during the year on private properties. Treatments were carried out at the refuse tip at Merks Hill, Great Dunmow and at the Council's various sewage disposal works. A percentage of the sewers in Hatfield Broad Oak, Hatfield Heath, Felsted, Little Dunmow, Great Dunmow, Thaxted, Little Canfield and Broxton was treated for rat infestation.

VERMIN

31 premises were disinfested during the year after complaints of infestation by either fleas, bugs, flies or ants. The standard form of treatment was spray with a 5 per cent solution of D.D.T. or Gammexane Smoke Generators. No major problem occurred.

FACTORIES

Particulars of the premises registered by the Council under the Factories Act, 1937, and of the inspections made are to be found as follows:-

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupies Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	44	22	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	82	67	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Totals:	126	89	-	-

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in prosecution were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	6	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	5	4	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to out- workers)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	15	10	-	-	-

There was one Out-worker in the District.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

At the end of the year, in addition to seasonal workers in agriculture, sites were used at:

Parish	Sites	Vans	Tents	Huts	Adults	Children
Wythorpe Roding	1	1	2	2	4	6
Warnston	2	2	-	-	2	2
Wroxsted	1	1	-	-	1	-
Wattle Canfield	2	3	-	1	5	3
Wheat Dunmow	3	3	-	-	6	3
Wilsted	7	7	-	1	14	2
Wheat Hallingbury	3	3	-	-	5	-
Wattlefield Broad Oak	1	1	-	-	2	2
Wattlefield Heath	2	8	1	-	13	2
Wigh Roding	1	1	-	-	2	-
Waden Roding	2	2	-	-	3	-
Webbing	4	12	1	1	28	13
Wkeley	14	28	-	2	46	20
Wroxsted	5	5	-	1	7	2
Wite Roding	4	4	1	-	9	4
Totals:	52	81	5	8	147	59

51 of the sites have access to main water supply and 1 site has a water supply from a well. The sanitary accommodation is 55 earth or chemical closets and 7 water closets.

Approximately one-half of these moveable dwellings are situated in the two parishes of Stebbing and Takeley.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disinfections after cases of Infectious Disease were carried out as under:-

Private houses	...	13
Schools	...	2
Vehicles	...	1

HOUSING

During the year 113 houses were inspected and recorded, the work being mainly confined to the parish of Hatfield Broad Oak.

No. of houses condemned	...	Nil
No. of houses demolished	...	4
No. of undertakings given	...	2

New building

The number of Council houses completed during 1953 was 111. Those built by private enterprise numbered 41 and there were also 2 conversions by private enterprise. At the close of the year there were 99 Council houses actively under construction and 47 private houses. A further 2 Council houses were authorised but had not been commenced at the end of the year.

The number of applications for Council houses at 31st December, 1953, was 470.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following Act was passed in 1953:-

Slaughter of Animals (Pigs) Act, 1953.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION
OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

No change took place in this branch of Public Health Work. Slaughtering of pigs continued at the Dunmow Bacon Factory and the inspections were carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

<u>Carcases inspected and condemned:</u>	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	4	2	71,510 +
Number inspected	4	2	71,510
<u>All diseases except T.B.</u>			
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	174
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	10,612
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	-	-	15.083%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>			
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	75
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	1,518
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	-	-	2.228%

+ Pigs which arrived dead or died in lairs were examined for scheduled diseases but were not inspected for food.

There was a further slight reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis during the year.

Butchers' Shops

422 lbs of carcase meat was inspected and condemned in butchers' shops.

Other Food

During the year the following foodstuffs were found upon inspection in shops etc to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned:-

Milk	52 tins	Dried Milk	102 lbs
Meat	17 tins	Vegetables	13 tins
Ham	41 lbs	Fruit	81 tins
Soup	4 tins	Fish	4 tins
Cheese	21½ lbs	Rice	26½ lbs
Miscellaneous foods		49 tins	

Milk

Inspections were made of the Dairies in the District and 3 samples of milk were taken for analysis. These were satisfactory.

There were 19 persons registered in the District as Distributors of Milk and 11 Dairies (not being Dairy farms) were also registered. Milk Dealers' licences were in force as under:-

to use special designation "T.T."	...	10
to use special designation "Pasteurised"	...	9
to use special designation "Sterilised"	...	5

Supplementary licences

to use special designation "T.T."	...	3
to use special designation "Pasteurised"	...	3
to use special designation "Sterilised"	...	1

Ice Cream

There were 71 premises registered under the Food & Drugs Acts for the storage and sale of ice cream in the District. 40 samples were taken for analysis.

and these were satisfactory apart from isolated samples which were in provisional grades 2 and 3. No manufacture of ice cream was carried on in the District.

Bakehouses

The number of Bakehouses in operation at the end of the year was 11. No unsatisfactory conditions existed other than occasional neglect of limewashing which was dealt with as a routine matter.

Food Premises

There were 18 premises in the District registered for the manufacture or preparation of sausages; pressed, pickled and preserved food. These were regularly inspected.

Frequent inspections were also carried out of all cafes, shops, slaughter-houses, restaurants, hotels and public houses in the district. No formal action was necessary during the year.

Food Hygiene

There were no cases of food poisoning in the District during the year.

No Clean Food Campaigns were carried out during the year.

The Council adopted Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air, in 1951.

RAINFALL

The rainfall as recorded at Thaxted Waterworks during the year is given below:-

		<u>inches</u>
January59
February	...	1.95
March3
April	...	1.3
May	...	3.45
June	...	3.43
July	...	2.75
August	...	1.93
September	...	1.68
October	...	1.52
November	...	1.34
December7
		<hr/> 20.94 inches

The heaviest fall was .9 inch on 1st May.

The longest period without rain was the 35 days from 20th February to 26th March.

